

LadyLike

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers

#29

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**Doin' Drag
Down Under
New Zealand's
HERO Parade**

**Halloween
Queens from
Philly & NYC**

**Expanded &
Up to Date
Support
Group
Listings**

**TVideo Review
Actor's Revenge
Kabuki Drama**

**Cosmetic Self-Help
How to Get Those
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Mirror**

**LadyLike Reflects
Our Latest
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**Asian
Beauty
Amy
Sakurai
Interviewed**



Editorial

For the past couple of years there's been a movement in the transgender community toward activism. It's only natural for groups of people who are oppressed to eventually realize they're just as good as anyone else on the planet, and have as much right to freedom of expression and the pursuit of happiness as the next human. As with the Civil Rights Movement and the Gay Rights Movement, leaders have emerged who have differing visions on how to obtain equal rights for all transgendered people. (Heck, some folks can't even agree on the definition of "transgendered.")

In just the past few years transgendered people have openly walked the halls of Congress and spoken with legislators, informing them of the need for TG rights legislation. The reaction of one Representative, "Oh, we don't have any of those kind of people in my state," is the reason we must continue to go to Washington and our state capitols, and make ourselves known. But, in my humble editorial opinion there is another thing we each need to do that will help us all in the long fight. We need to go out in public and interact with other people.

Okay, I know it's scary. I remember when I was dressing in the privacy of my home. It had old fashioned locks with what I felt to be, every time I dressed, extremely large holes for the key. I would actually go around and close the window shades and curtains, then put a piece of tape over the keyholes so no one outside could spy on me. I can see why my girlfriend thought I was nuts. And therein lies the point. In my capacity as Executive Director of Renaissance, I deal with people every week who either do or want to do business with the TG community. One remark I've heard a few times is: "Some of the guys are so paranoid. They will make appointments for makeovers and not show up. They will show up and be so nervous and skittish that they have no hope of enjoying the experience, and leave others in the shop asking themselves, 'What's wrong with her?'"

There's nothing "wrong" with her because she's a crossdresser. What's wrong is the years she spent hiding it and the load of guilt and paranoia she accumulated. But, when the general public sees a man dressed as a woman act "funny," they—like all humans—make judgments. Those judgments are part of what keeps us oppressed.

In a Utopian world, I would only have to point this out and all the poor girls who are compelled to go out, but are scared to death of the critical gaze of society, would suddenly realize that acting confident, like you have every right to be there dressed as you are, is the best way to interact with the rest of the population. They would start looking people in the eye, smiling and saying hello. They would, in other words, start acting like regular people. And, that's the frustrating part. The vast majority of crossdressers are "regular" people. They interact socially with friends and associates quite easily while they're in their masculine role. When they put on a dress, it's a different story.

No, it's not all that easy to overcome. I spoke to a college class about crossdressing the other day and as the professor was introducing me my eye wandered across the students faces. One young lady in the front row caught my eye and smiled. I had to stop myself from looking aside. I had to make myself return her gaze and her smile. In those little moments of human contact, that's when judgments are made. If we look away and act withdrawn we will be judged to be odd. People will think we have something to hide. Well, we do. But there is nothing wrong with being a man and expressing yourself in a feminine manner. Even if you don't yet believe it yourself (the habit of years can be very hard to overcome) learn to act like you believe it. You will find that people will treat you like they treat anyone else and that will make you more comfortable, so you will be more like everyone else in a social setting. You will then be a powerful ambassador for the transgender community and someday a legislator will say, "Oh yes, my friend Diane is a crossdresser." When that day comes we will no longer have to fight for our basic human rights.

So, support the activists who go to Washington and march against oppression and injustice, but, to steal a slogan from the military, "be all you can be" and show the world that we can all be *LadyLike*.



LadyLike

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers

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Publisher

JoAnn Roberts

Editor

Angela Gardner

Sales & Advertising

CDS, PO Box 61263

King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263

Phone: 610.640.9449

email – info@cdspub.com

Web Page – <http://www.cdspub.com/>

LadyLike Profile

Amy Sakurai

AGE: 41

PROFESSION:

Software Engineer

RESIDENCE:

Oregon

HEIGHT: 5' 9"

WEIGHT: 140 lbs.

MEASUREMENTS: 36B-28-38/10

SHOE SIZE: 9

Favorite Things

SHOE STYLE: Pumps

COLORS: Black & Purple

MOVIE: When Harry Met
Sally, A Hard Day's Night

ARTIST: Steve Hanks

MUSIC: Heart, Fleetwood Mac,
Moody Blues

PLACE: Home

TURN-ONS: Japanese

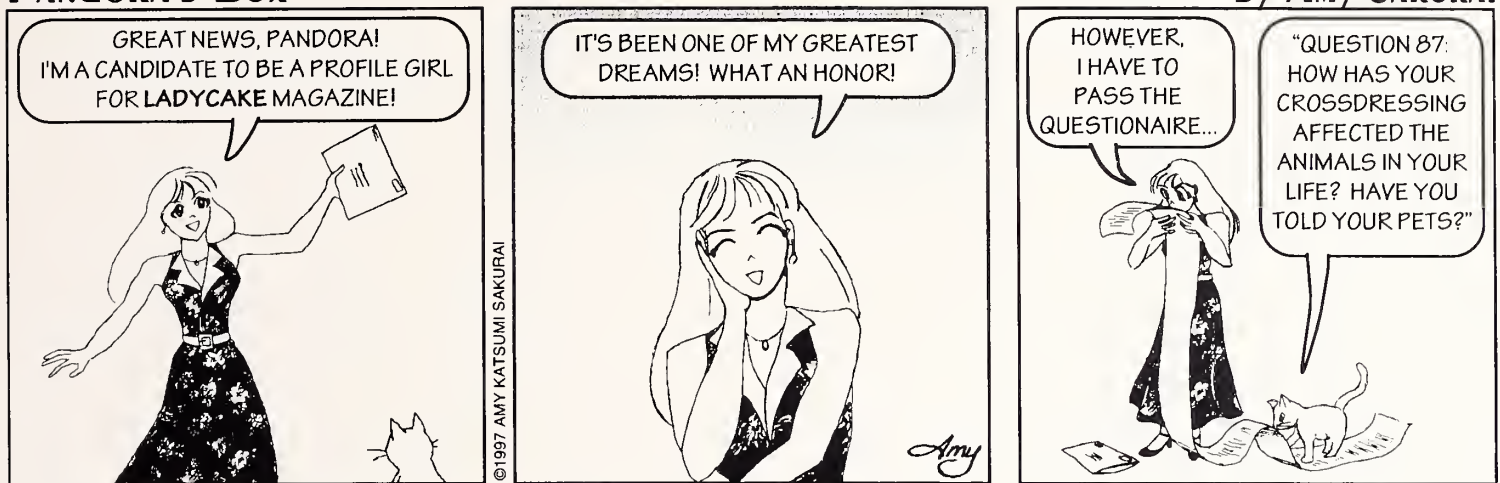
animation, Rubenesque
women

TURN-OFFS: Ultraconservative
political organizations
whose agenda is to curb the
rights of the GLBT members
of society.

Amy Sakurai

PANDORA'S BOX

by Amy Sakurai



Pandora's Box appears here courtesy of Amy Sakurai. Pandora's Box is a regular feature in Cross-Talk Magazine.

LadyLike: When I was young I was very, very afraid that anyone would find out I thought about dressing like a girl. So much so that I would not even do it for Halloween. You said you actually wore your sisters socks to school. What was that like and how did you manage to go through with it?

Amy Sakurai: I don't remember if it was my sister's socks or a neighbor girl's socks (we played a lot together), but it was an old, discarded pair of white knee-highs which I was able to salvage from the trash. There were holes in the toes, and the heels were worn thin to transparency, but I didn't care. I loved the ribbed texture and the feel of the fabric hugging my calves.

I wonder if being exhibitionistic is naturally part of being a crossdresser. Even though I was shy, I wanted to be able to wear girls clothes in public. I knew I couldn't, of course. Although I was only about 10 years old at the time, I decided to wear the knee-highs instead of my regular socks to school. I figured nobody would notice, since my jeans hid everything. I guess part of the thrill was doing something forbidden, but some of it was the high from wearing such sensual clothes. (I'm sure I wouldn't have used the term "sensual" at that age, but the feeling fits.)

After school, I went to a friend's house, and I showed him my socks. I used the pretext that I was out of clean socks and my mom had me wear my sister's socks. My friend was scandalized, and was ready to lend me a pair of boy's socks. It was all I could do to calm him down. Before I went home, he explained my plight to his mom, but fortunately, there was no consequence. I didn't wear the socks to school after that, but I did wear the socks to bed on occasion.

The only other item of female clothing I wore to school was a pair of stretch lace panties. Of course, these were much less visible, and I didn't tell anyone that I was wearing them. But lace is another of those "forbidden" fabrics guys aren't allowed to wear, and I reveled in the feel.

LL: You were the eldest in the family and responsible for your younger siblings. How many siblings are there?

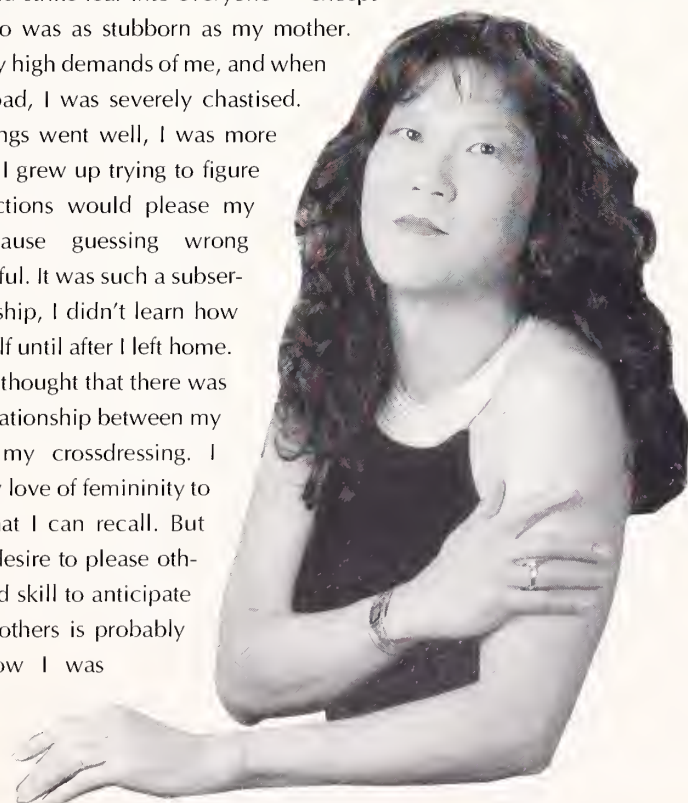
AS: I have two brothers and a sister, and I haven't yet discussed my transgendered nature with them. By telling them, I would effectively be coming out to my entire family, since we don't keep secrets well. I could probably handle the resulting firestorm from my parents, but I'd have to

be prepared to be cut off from them contact wise. I don't see my siblings often, but we're still pretty close. I think some of our closeness comes from our common struggles with our parents. My parents grew up in a tough situation; they were kids during the war and spend part of their childhood in internment camps. My parent's generation worked with a solemn intensity, and we were raised in a serious manner.

We were taught to be responsible... and that the oriental traditions of maintaining face were of high importance. Appearances are everything. As the oldest child, I frequently was called on to look after the others. In a way, I was the third parent in the house. I can't say that I was maternal, but I was pretty good with kids. Since I was the oldest child, I was required to set a good example for my younger siblings to follow. When you always have to be very good, you find sophisticated, covert ways to be bad. I guess while growing up, I thought that crossdressing was bad.

My mother was the dominant figure in our household and could strike fear into everyone — except my sister, who was as stubborn as my mother. She made very high demands of me, and when things went bad, I was severely chastised. But when things went well, I was more like a buddy. I grew up trying to figure out which actions would please my mother, because guessing wrong could be painful. It was such a subversive relationship, I didn't learn how to assert myself until after I left home.

I've never thought that there was any causal relationship between my mother and my crossdressing. I can't trace my love of femininity to any events that I can recall. But my insecure desire to please others and related skill to anticipate the needs of others is probably rooted in how I was treated by





my mother. I don't think feminists would approve, but my upbringing instilled a very submissive component in me, and it makes Amy a very gentle person.

LL: What was it like, trying to secretly dress, with your family around? How did you manage it as a teen?

AS: I was fortunate to have a bedroom in the unfinished basement of our house. It was a little like sleeping in a warehouse — concrete floor, cinder block walls, exposed wood joists of the floor above, bare light bulbs. I pretty much had the basement to myself, and I shared the space with all the boxes

of stored items my mom collected. My mother was a pack rat who never threw anything away. My treasure trove was a dresser full of old clothes.

After everyone had gone to sleep, I would sneak into the storage area and retrieve the garments I needed. I could choose from either a full corset or a combination of bra and girdle. I became skilled at rolling socks into breast forms. I also developed a complicated technique using towels and a sweatshirt for padding my hips and behind. A garter belt and nylons completed the undergarments.

There were only a couple of outfits, mostly solid color cotton dresses, simple but nice. My favorite item was a swimsuit, white with black polka dots. Sometimes I would use my own ribbed turtlenecks and make skirts by wrapping patterned fabric around my waist. All I had for a hairpiece was a cheap Halloween wig, and the only thing close to makeup was a pseudo-lipstick from a Halloween makeup kit. The net result was far below

passable, I'm sure, but blur the vision a little to help the illusion, and a young woman appeared in the bathroom mirror.

Although the visual aspect may have been average, the activity was a tremendous tactile experience. The intense involvement of my sense of touch and sense of smell created strong memories which are active to this day.

I don't know if other teen crossdressers ever do this, but I sometimes dressed as a pregnant woman. I even went through the motions of giving birth. I thought that being pregnant would

be a really cool thing. As an adult, I know of the long-term discomfort and then the pain of childbirth. So the fantasy maybe doesn't make sense. But I really wanted to be a woman back then.

I dressed as frequently as I wanted, sometimes 4 or 5 times a week, sometimes none. Depending on how late my mom would be awake, I might dress at 11 pm, or I'd get up at 2 am. I probably spent only about an hour dressed up. Being young and virile, I concluded each session with masturbation. Nowadays, crossdressing has no sexual aspect for me, but for a teenager, sex is connected to almost anything.

LL: How did women other than your mother influence the development of your feminine side?

AS: When I was growing up, I didn't understand that there were differences between the way girls and boys operated. Now that I've spent time learning about transgender issues, I can look back and understand my relationships with others.

I spent time with two groups of people; it so happened that the groups were defined by gender. I had a small cadre of male friends, and our focus was on actions: what should we do... what **could** we do... how great would it be if we did... very "thing" and "activity" oriented.

I also had a group of female friends — a group completely separate from the circle of my male friends. I recognize now that the focus of interaction with my female friends was relationships. We discussed people — their behaviors and motivations. We talked about personalities, character traits. Sure, sometimes we talked about things we were doing or were planning, but the people aspect was always strong. Given the number of hours I spent talking to girls, it's only natural that I'd acquire some of their communication traits.

My closest confidant from 6th grade through high school was my next door neighbor. She and I would walk home from school every day and often spend an hour standing in front of her house just talking. We talked a lot about our peers, relationships, events from our day, even our dreams. Looking back, I would say that my long, intimate relationship with her is probably the biggest contribution to the feminine component of my personality.

LL: When you were a college sophomore you actually went out dressed. What circumstances allowed you to do it?

AS: I lived in a college dormitory, but I didn't have a roommate. My room was at the end of the hall, next to a stairwell leading outside. I don't actually remember much about how I was equipped, but it was extremely unsophisticated. Clothing was limited to something like a t-shirt and skirt. Shoes were cheap and simple — hardly more than slip-on loafers. A cheap wig topped it all.

In the evening, I put on my "padding" and then a sweatsuit. With the rest of my clothes in a bag, I ducked into the stairwell. At the ground level, the stairwell had a door which opened onto the sidewalk; the door was normally locked from the outside, so I could only get interrupted if I heard a noise from above. I completed my change and then I jimmied the door latch so that it wouldn't latch when the door reclosed. This meant I could later get back into the stairwell from the outside.

I walked from campus to downtown — about 8 blocks — and then window shopped for a while. It was dark out, but the streets were brightly lit. At one point, I was honked at by a car full of guys, but I didn't know if I had been read or if it was just playful ogling. I was naive and didn't realize how stupid it was for a girl to be walking alone at night.

I guess even then I was somewhat fearless — a characteristic which I've been accused of to this day. In a way, this is surprising, because I



was shy, introverted, and socially backward. I doubt that I was prepared for any of a number of bad things which could have happened. My big concern was if someone had fixed the stairway door latch so I was locked out. Luckily, nothing happened. My time out on the streets was maybe an hour. It was a thrill to be out, but I did it only the one time.

LL: You say that after you got married your CDing went into "re-mission." What was that like "suppressing" your feminine side?

AS: Oddly enough, the suppression of my femme side was fairly straightforward and complete. I think a lot had to do with my daily activities. In high school, I spent my time oscillating between technical analysis and creative visualizations. I wrote over two hundred poems and had time to sketch and draw. College was a shocking change of environment. My four-year curriculum in Engineering was predefined. There was little room for the humanities. In fact, there was a list of humanities courses we were *forbidden* to take, if you can believe that.

The move from a balanced life to a heavily technological life went very quickly, and my femme self evaporated in a short amount of time. I became engaged to a young lady when we were sophomores, and we were married after our junior year. During our engagement, I mentioned that I crossdressed, and in fact, my fiancée helped me dress up for Halloween one year. But after we got married, I didn't dress. She (and I) figured it was a passing (no pun intended) phase of my life.

After college, I found work in the field of computing. I think the intense focus on analytical, mechanical, and political functions at college and work stonewalled my feminine talents. For me, the "good" part about becoming so mechanical is that my CD inclinations were also buried. And because of my desire to have a normal and happy marriage, I think I subconsciously accepted this shift in my personality. I didn't think about or miss my femme self – so I didn't dress at all for 19 years.

LL: What brought you out of the suppressed phase?

AS: The catalyst was a co-worker's wedding a little more than three years ago. My gift to Jill (the co-worker) was to be a poem. I've written over 250 poems; all but around 10 of them were written before college. A week before the wedding, I had an extra day off from work and started to work on the poem. I like Jill a lot, and I wanted to write a really good, really special poem. No sweat, I thought. Two days later, I was sweating. No poem. I used to crank these out by the dozen. So what could be the problem? I resorted to buying a rhyming dictionary – my first ever! Still, nothing. (Most of my poems *don't* rhyme, but some do.) Finally, something funny happened.

I knew Jill pretty well. I started focusing on her. What did she like? What were her passions? How did she feel about things? What words would touch her heart? What words would make her cry with joy? I wanted to see through her eyes and ride her thoughts. I immersed myself in Jill... and a dam broke... feelings flowed. I was finally able to write the poem. It ended up being a poem which truly touched her heart.

But I felt really odd inside. My empathic senses were heightened, perhaps overloaded. My mind was operating... well, differently; it was performing free associations, identifying and assimilating various relationships, and "listening." I remembered the feelings of long ago – being able to let this part of my mind run free. I realized that this was all part of myself – a past me – which I had been somehow, some why suppressing.

In writing this poem, in reaching into myself, I rediscovered a feminine portion of me that I had been missing. It was as much a shock to me (as it would be later to my spouse) that I would be crossdressing again. I had been so cocky; I thought I wasn't going to have a mid-life crisis. One

came anyway, in the form of Amy.

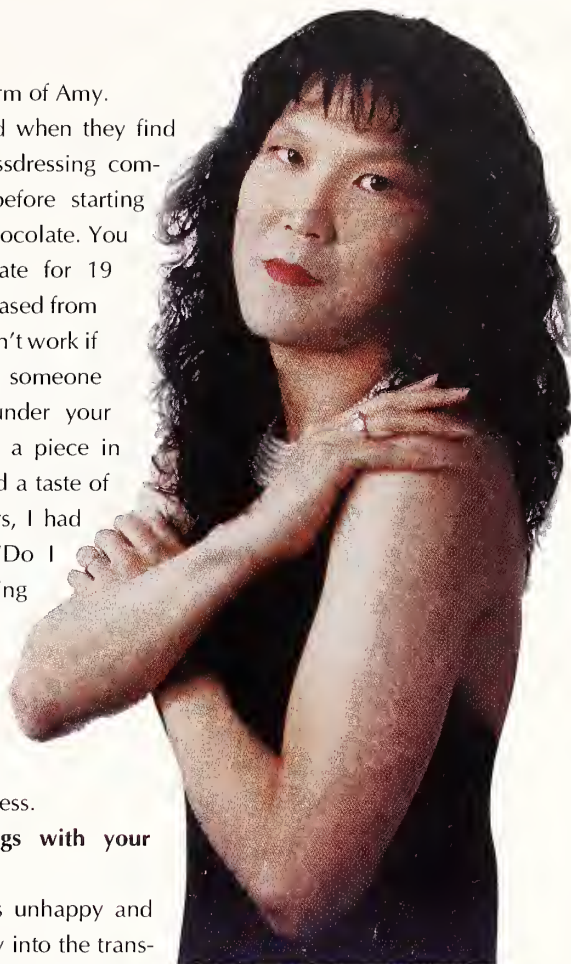
People are surprised when they find out that I stopped crossdressing completely for 19 years before starting again. I think it's like chocolate. You could give up chocolate for 19 years if it were totally erased from your mind. But it wouldn't work if every month or so, someone waved a candy bar under your nose and then popped a piece in your mouth. Once I had a taste of chocolate after 19 years, I had to ask the question, "Do I want to give up something this good for another 19 years? Why?" It looked like the only reason I would want to give up this activity would be to ameliorate marital stress.

LL: How are things with your spouse in that regard?

AS: My spouse was unhappy and fearful about my reentry into the transgendered world. My wife is one of the most understanding, most generous, most loving people I know, so this turmoil took me by surprise. We had a rough period of time, and I attempted to minimize her anxieties by maintaining a low profile for a year – which is what I had thought was a tacit agreement between us. It turns out that this quiet period actually made her more anxious. Because of our lack of communication in that year, she didn't know if I was walking the streets, becoming transsexual, or what. But she knew that *something* was going on.

Eventually, we just hit a flash point. She had been reading some of my correspondence with my transgendered pen pals. I didn't work very hard at keeping them put away. You know, sometimes the "criminal" really wants to get caught. Anyway, she admitted she had read them, and this was the catalyst to discuss the issue.

Once we decided to talk, a lot came out into the open, and I learned I had been doing more harm than good by keeping quiet. I also found out that my wife spent that year grieving the loss of the person she thought to be her husband. That might sound to be a very bad





thing, but the process of grieving had to be completed before she could move on in life. In many respects, my spouse felt she no longer knew me, and it was important that I continually let her know what I was doing and thinking. As a high introvert, that's not always easy. I made it a point to chat with her every evening before bedtime.

As time has passed, my spouse has become philosophical about the situation. She recognizes that Amy is a part of who I am – and that the feminine components of my personality contribute to the package to which she

was originally attracted. This is not to say that she has an active appreciation of Amy. She maintains more of a detached tolerance, but she allows me my journey. She asks that I don't expose myself to scandal, and that I don't involve our kids. Understandably, she is not thrilled I'm doing this for *LadyLike*, but she trusts my assessment that it has a low profile with the general public.

Even though I have a closet full of women's clothes, and I go out once or twice a month, my spouse hasn't actually *met* Amy. She's only seen photographs. In a way, I'm a little apprehensive about how my spouse would actually react to being with Amy; I'm not sure she would feel relaxed and comfortable.

My spouse is my best critic – she points out do's and don'ts for my makeup, wardrobe, and posture (all from photographs). When we shop, she recommends clothing styles and colors. She laughs at my comic strip (Pandora's Box) and tells me it should be syndicated – as though the world is ready for that!

LL: If you had a magic wand that would make you 100% female, would you use it?

AS: Because I'm married, I wouldn't. It's not fair to my spouse. Our relationship is too important, and our relationship is founded and maintained on a traditional, heterosexual basis. On the other hand, if I were single, I'd say yes. How could anyone resist the opportunity to live two complete and different lives?

I'm fortunate in that my workplace is fairly tolerant, and people are judged more according to their skills than their personal foibles. Celebration of diversity is an important corporate value these days, and I don't think a transsexual would have any problem there. If I showed up to work tomorrow as a

woman, there'd be a brief commotion, and then things would get back to business in a surprisingly short amount of time.

Wanting to be a woman is something I've had in me from an early age. It wasn't until this recent excursion into crossdressing that I started to get an inkling of how vast the differences are between women and men. It's fascinating. I'd need to live full time as a woman for quite a while before I'd be able to embody the essence of womanhood. But it's a journey on which I would love to embark.

I think my mental state is well suited toward being womanly, and it puzzles me to observe the flame wars between M2F transsexuals, transgenderists, and crossdressers in some of the Usenet newsgroups. For a set of people who pride themselves on being women inside, there seems to be an inordinate amount of testosterone spewed across the networks. Combative, competitive, vitriolic, rude, dictatorial, patronizing, non-constructive, non-listening individuals do not seem to me to reflect our ideals of womanhood. But perhaps, I've missed the point. I know that if I told some of my Usenet peers that I have a TS streak, I would get crucified. "You're either *all or nothing!*" is a common response. Just because the woman inside me isn't my dominant persona 100% of the time, I don't feel this means there's no woman there at all. People have mood swings and personality swings, and sometimes Amy is the persona in charge – sometimes she isn't.

LL: You feel that your creativity is tied into your femme side. How?

AS: My male side is very precise and analytical; everything fits into a rigid framework. Being orderly is nearly opposite of being creative. Creativity involves visions of change and an element of risk. My femme side is more spontaneous, more responsive to tactile stimuli, more interested in subtle relationships. Heightened senses contribute to my ability to draw and to evaluate and correlate images. A more carefree attitude encourages me to take risks – to make decisions on the edge. My femme mind is more open to relating one concept to another – which broadens the scope of possibilities and options, thus fostering creativity.

As rigid boundaries have fallen, my writing (poetry, fiction) has returned and my artwork (illustration, calligraphy) has improved. I am much more aware of color and composition, and my intrapersonal skills are enhanced. It is all quite a contrast to my analytical side which demands facts and figures.

As an additional outlet for Amy, I created the Pandora's Box comic strip about two years ago. Pandora's Box allows my alter ego to exercise additional fantasy, flex a little artistic creativity, and play with the big and little issues we transgendered face daily.

LL: How was your first convention [Esprit] experience?

AS: The convention experience was absolutely fantastic! It's something every CD just has to do at least once. Otherwise, it's like being a virgin for your entire life. I spent five straight days as Amy, and it was a tremendous mental shock when I had to revert to drab at the end.

I met so many wonderful people at Esprit. A convention only gets dull if you let it since there is *always* someone new and interesting to talk to, and there are so many fascinating stories to share. I made many friends with whom I correspond via snail-mail and email. I learned a lot of little – but valuable – things at the seminars. But more importantly, the convention was a great confidence builder.

Port Angeles was wildly hospitable, which is amazing for a rural, mill town. We were welcomed everywhere, even at the Moose lodge, which is one of the most conservative places in town. I had my photo taken in the most redneck bar in Port Angeles just to prove I was actually there.



The trip to the gambling casino was interesting. I met a really beautiful crossdresser from Washington named Wendy; she had delicate features, a small frame, and was tremendously passable. (Was I envious!) She and I exchanged greetings and compliments (and I was really flattered by her assessment of *my* passability), and we wandered around the tables together for a bit and then decided to go to the bar for a drink. We both ordered 7-Up, but as we tried to pay, the bartender said it's already been covered by "the gentleman over there". Our "gentleman" was a 300 lb, bearded local in a red plaid flannel work shirt who apparently had a *little* too much to drink! We both tried to decline the offer several times but our admirer kept calling out, "I ain't hittin' on you gals! I ain't hittin' on you gals! Honest!" Well, what can you do? Wendy and I both smiled, waved and thanked him – at the same time we were trying to figure out just how much trouble we could be getting into. I figured that since there were *two* of us, we'd probably be OK. Neither of us had ever had a drink bought for us before. There are just too many things real women are trained to handle at an early age that are missing from our education. Anyway, I think we really mystified our friend, who followed us around the casino all evening. He must have figured us out, but he never came close to us again.

In general, the locals loved talking to us. A couple of convention attendees and myself had a wonderful conversation with two local women who enjoyed observing Esprit last year and wanted to visit again this year. The women bemoaned the fact that their husbands sat around the house watching TV, didn't help with housework, spent their free time fishing or hunting, and frequently tried to prove how macho they were. The husbands were completely insensitive to their wife's issues or feelings, and when told that their wives were going to visit the convention, the husbands couldn't fathom *why* anybody would want to go see a bunch of transvestites.

We talked about the importance of relationship and how our femme roles help us develop our feminine values and behavior. The two women love talking to the transgendered because the sharing of information is so womanlike – but there is the additional coloration of the male experience woven into the discussion. The women were impressed with our versatility and our command of our femininity, and they were equally dismayed at their spouses' lack of sensitivity and sense of relationship. The wives were even more envious when they learned that we help with the cooking, cleaning, and laundry at home. As ambassadors representing the TG community, we made a positive impression on the female locals, but the menfolk were probably much less impressed.

One other significant thing was that by spending five days as Amy, I found myself in a very different mind set. On the last day of the convention (Sunday), I attended Mass at the local Catholic church. The mass itself was fairly ordinary. Nothing unusual happened until the priest began giving the Homily. As I listened, I came to the realization that this was a traditional male method of one-way "telling" of information. It contrasted sharply with the two-way dynamic exchange of information I'd been sharing recently with my sisters. I wondered how women can deal with continually switching between these two modes. There was no avoiding the feeling that I am in a patriarchy. And I was glad to participate in mass en femme, which allowed my mind to gain new insights not soon to be forgotten. You know, God really *is* a woman.

The convention ended all too soon. I'm sure that one's first convention is always the most memorable because the euphoria is so great. I was able to make the 5-hour drive home en femme, and it was great fun

at the stops along the way. Everyday activities like stopping for a snack at a fast food place or buying gasoline suddenly weren't ordinary. Every interaction with a stranger was an adventure. It wasn't long before I started making plans to attend next year's convention.

L L :
W h a t
would you
like to do
that you haven't yet as Amy?

AS: Amazingly enough, it looks like I'm running out of worlds to conquer. I'd like to take an extended trip with one of my friends – perhaps spending up to a week en femme while visiting a couple of cities. Flying would be fun; a train trip would also be a treat.

Just coming out to more friends would be great. With my spouse as concerned as she is about my alienating people, it doesn't appear I'll be taking much risk in this direction. I expect to get a little more involved in the local transgendered community. I'd like to participate in the Gay Pride march this coming Spring. Also, I'll be editing the NorthWest Gender Alliance newsletter for the coming year.

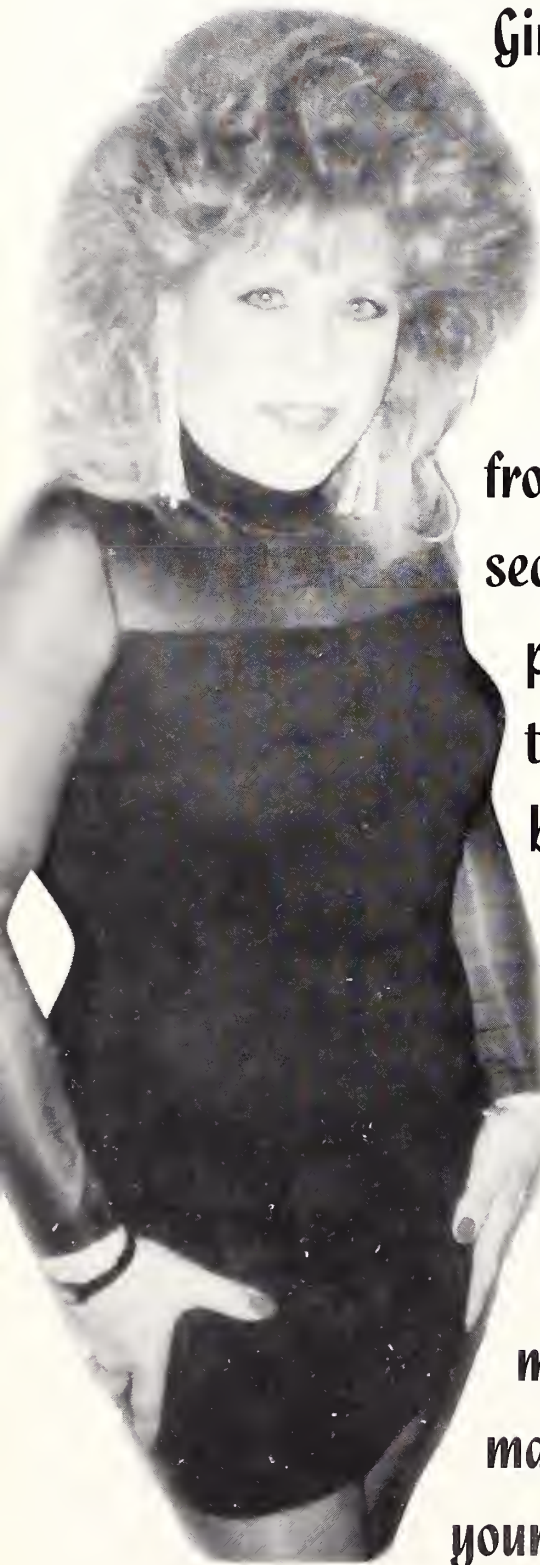
An ongoing goal is to continually improve my femme presentation; I still have a lot to learn. As I get better, I think I'll feel more relaxed in public. I expect that by mingling with the regular population, I'll help to de-stigmatize crossdressing and make our presence in public more acceptable. Every ordinary person who is amused by reading me is someone who could be an ally in our quest for tolerance. I've also had ideas about writing a humorous book about crossdressers and/or transgender. We seem to take ourselves so seriously. Lighten up, folks! Thank goddess we're not living in the days of Stonewall.

The "win the lottery" fantasy is for Amy to have her own condo. It's fun to think about how it would be furnished and dream about having large closets. The best part would be having a safe place to change anytime I wanted.



Girl Talk

with JoAnn Roberts



Girl Talk is your forum. Any question on any topic is fair game, from makeup secrets to the psychology of transgendered behavior. If I don't have an answer, I'll find someone who does. Write me care of this magazine with your questions.

Dear JoAnn,
I've just lost 25 pounds and I still have "love handles." Will liposuction eliminate them or will I have to work them off?

D.M., Colo.

Dear DM,
Congratulations on losing all that weight. Good for you! I know how hard it is; I struggle with my weight, too. Liposuction will take care of those love handles, but so will exercise. You have to decide what is more important: your time (exercising) or your money (the surgery). Keep in mind that liposuction is not a cure-all. You can't get a "lip-suck" (as they call it in the o.r.) and then go out and eat like a pig. You'll just get fat somewhere else on your body. The best way to get rid of those love handles (as she ponders her own) is to work them off with diet and exercise. I'm using the Zone Diet to lose 20 pounds I gained when I quit smoking last year. It seems to be working really well. You might want to check it out. Look for "Mastering the Zone" © 1997 by Barry Sears, Ph.D., HarperCollins (ISBN 0-060039190-1), \$25.

Dear JoAnn,
I have wrinkles on the backs of my hands. Do you think that Retin-A or collagen cream will help them?

Deana, Out West

Dear Deana,
Retin-A will probably help to lessen the wrinkles on your hands, but I'd try some less expensive treatments first. Try Dermacel skin lotion yourself. Your problem could just be dry skin and a moisturizing lotion may help quite a bit. Next I'd look into one of the over the counter retinoid creams rather than retin-A which requires a prescription. If none of those work, then go see a dermatologist who can tell you if Retin-A is required or if some other treatment will suffice.

Dear JoAnn,

I've been trying to grow my fingernails but my nails split and crack when they get long. Since I have broad fingers and nails, I can't find artificial nails that fit. Do you know of any place that has wide nails?

Michelle, AZ

Dear Michelle,

Yes, in fact, I do. My good friend Lynda Krupa of CDTips has really wide artificial nails that can be polished any color you like and they are reusable. Give Lynda a call at 215-878-3383, from 9 to 9 daily or email her at <cdtips@aol.com>.

Dear JoAnn,

What is lip liner for and how is it used?

Tanya, MN



Dear Tanya,

Lip liner is used to create a dam around your lips to hold the color of your lipstick and to help give your lips more definition. Lip liner has much more wax than lipstick and is much less likely to bleed.

Most of us "girls" don't realize it but about 90% of people have uneven lips with a full side and flat side. So, if your lips are uneven try this technique. On the flat side, draw the line from the corner of your mouth to the bow which makes a fuller, more rounded line. On the full side, draw from the bow to the corner of the mouth which creates a straighter line.

When you apply lip liner don't try to draw the whole outline in one motion. You'll get better results if you begin in the middle of the lips and follow the contours out to the corners of the mouth. Place the lip liner in the center of the upper lip and carefully trace your cupid's bow before lining the rest of the upper lip. Then place the pencil in the middle of the lower lip and draw the line out to the corner of the mouth.

To apply the lip liner with a steady hand, make a fist with one hand and rest the other hand (with the liner or lip brush) lightly on top of it. Before using the liner, rub it onto the back of your hand to soften it.

Dear JoAnn,

No matter how I try, my lipstick seems to always rub off on a cup or glass. Can you help?

Deena, N.H.

Dear Deena,

I'll certainly try to help. Here are a collection of tips for lipstick and liner staying power.

- (1) Lightly powder your lips with a cotton ball or powder puff - this provides a base for the color to "grab."
- (2) Use a neutral lip liner as a base. Some make-up artists also suggest foundation/concealer as a base. I like to color my lips with the liner pencil.
- (3) With a firm lip brush, fill in lips with your colour and re-line your lips with your lip liner.
- (4) Blot your lips with a tissue and re-apply.

Dear JoAnn,

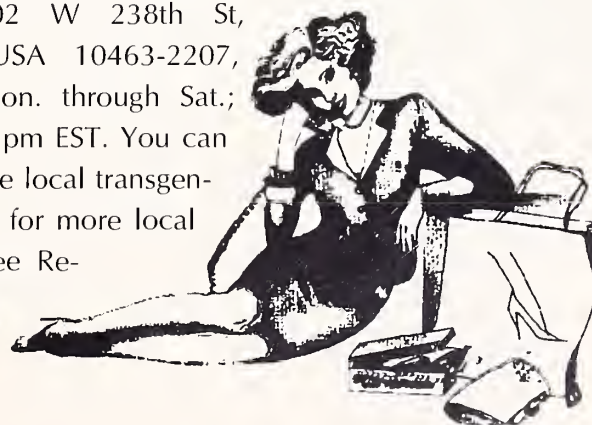
Is there any information out there that helps with wearing wigs? I have always had problem with my wigs popping off. No matter what I do the wig creeps and even comes off.

Amy Lee (from the net)

Dear Amy,

Sounds like your wigs are too small for your head. When you buy a wig make sure you look at the headband size and compare it to the circumference of your head. Make sure you adjust the tension on the head bands. There is usually a hook and loop arrangement on each side in the back of the wig.

If your head is really that much bigger than the wig, then a really good professional wig shop can stretch the cap for you. I can recommend Professional Hair Goods, 302 W 238th St, Riverdale, NY USA 10463-2207, 718-884-6024; Mon. through Sat.; 11:00 am to 6:00 pm EST. You can also check with the local transgender support group for more local wig resources. (See Resources p36.)



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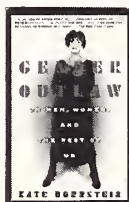
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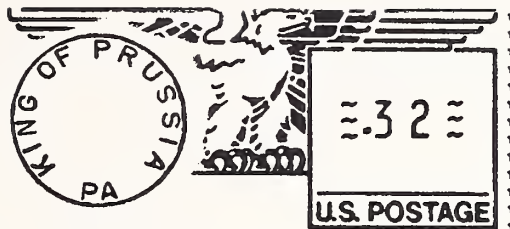
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Letters



Brit Loves Our Mag

Dear JoAnn,

First of all, congratulations on a marvelous magazine, quality print, lots of color, it's fabulous! I'm a lifelong TV from England. I've managed to get only six of your issues but I love everyone. The standard of your girls is remarkable. I've tried to emulate the classic style of Laurie (Arizona) and Nancy Ann (N.Y.). But I also like to show a leg sometimes, and always with the best stockings I can afford. I'm 36 and as you can see in my photos, I love to change my image with one of my 10 different wigs. The latest copy I have is #24, but I'm trying to acquire more and would be overjoyed to find my pictures in your pages soon.

Lisa Lane, U.K.

Wired Praise

Dear JoAnn,

I bought your magazine about six times at a local book store. I noticed that there are a lot of girls in your magazine that I've talked to on *Prodigy* and *AOL*; Lori Larkin, Melissa Franks, Paula, and Kelly Wise are just a few of

them. I really enjoy the magazine so after talking to a few people I decided to send you a couple of my photos. I had the photos done at *Glamour Shots* here in Buffalo a year ago and they had more fun doing the transformation and were very considerate about doing it, and doing it privately if required.

I was also reading through the addresses for the clubs for TG people and notice the two you have listed for Buffalo and Williamsville no longer exist. The Nu Phi Chi group has changed their name and address to the Buffalo Belles. I am not an officer of the organization but I have access to the Internet with which I found and helped other sisters to locate our happy home.

I hope to see my photo in your



magazine and if people would like to contact me feel free to use my email address, <mellssaH30@aol.com>.

Melissa, N.Y.

Loves Mirror-Mirror

Dear *LadyLike*,

With the arrival of the third issue of

my subscription, you again made my day. Yours is such a delight to read and enjoy; there are also articles which teach. The way I enjoy *LadyLike* is to quickly browse the entire issue then save it until I make my transition to Cynthia, then read it cover to cover, enjoying the photos. The profiles are always a "showstopper" then the *Mirror-Mirror* section is such a treat to see



the girls beautifully dressed. Thank you for a quarterly treat. I am happy to enclose photos for your use.

Love, Cynthia, Fla.

JoAnn... Call Qantas

Dear JoAnn,

The TV scene here is very much underground since [New Zealand] being a country of only 3 million, one can easily be "marked" by the puritans of this world, but I am keen to correspond with any attractive CD's in the U.S. should they be interested.

I am truly amazed at how you look so ravishing. I showed your photo to my partner who is in the fashion business and she said she would sign you

continued on page 15

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Send Your Photos

The most frequent praise we get here at LadyLike Magazine is, "Your girls are the best!" The most frequent request we get is, "Can I write to ----?" So, we're responding to what our readers want. Beginning with the next issue (#30), if you include your mailing name and mailing address on the back of your photos, we will print your address alongside your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. If you want us to forward mail for you, include \$10 and we'll assign you a number and forward any mail for you for one year.

Beginning with issue #30, if you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD001 along side the photo. If there's an FWD number, write your letter, put it in a #9 envelope and in pencil write the FWD number on the front. For each letter to be forwarded, put your letter, the #9 envelope, a stamp and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail them to us here at LadyLike Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.



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Letters

on as model any day. I daren't ask your age but you look in your 20's in



most shots. Over here the skinny rake-like figures are on the way out and a more fuller figure is now in vogue.

You are doing a fantastic job as I have seen some other mags from the USA that are pure smut. Well, all the very best with your venture and if you intend selling shares do let me know !

Miki, New Zealand

P.S. Do you like our sexy new stamp?

Flattery will get you everywhere with me. 20's? I'm pushing 50. Not bad for an old broad, eh!

We're Glad To Be Of Help

Dear JoAnn:

I am not normally much of a letter writer, but I simply must take this opportunity to add my voice to the paeon of thanks and appreciation that I know you receive from all those people, like me, whom you have helped so much.

My story must be typical. Just two years ago, deep in the closet, and even deeper in denial and depression, I found your magazine as I was surreptitiously visiting an adult book store. I

was convinced that I was some sexual freak, like those in the sex magazines. The discovery of *LadyLike* was like the sun of Spring that bursts upon a land cold and weary of the bleak dreariness of Winter. You opened an entirely new and wonderful world to me. In the past two years I have left the darkness of my closet and have emerged a new, happy, and different person. Through you, I discovered your Web page, other organizations, and other people. I joined my local support group, where I have blossomed forth into a person I only fantasized about.

Best of all, I am now without depression, for the first time in the 50 years of my life! I saw a therapist who specializes in transgendered issues, to see if my happiness was an illusion. She confirmed instead that I had truly—and finally—found myself. I do not know where I will end up as regards my lifestyle and gender role, but it



does not matter. As I have learned, life is a journey, not a destination. I now know I am going to really enjoy this journey, for at last I **can be** what I really feel I am! Thanks to you, dear JoAnn.

I know people usually send pictures. I can never find one of me that I can be proud of. However, just the other night I had a professional artist

do a quick sketch of me, and I just love it. So, enclosed please find a Xerox. I really don't expect you can use it in your magazine, but I wanted you to see how I look! Pretty good for a 50-year old. (People now say I look 35!) See, being transgendered makes you young! That is how I feel!

Thank you again, JoAnn. I look forward to continuing to enjoy your wonderful magazine.

Sincerely, Vikki, Md.

What All Men Want?

Dear JoAnn,

I can't get over how beautiful and feminine you are—I just love your photo on page 10 of *LadyLike*.

I also just can't get enough of your reader's photos—these beautiful, sexy girls show that it's possible to cast off one's hated maleness and become what all men want to be—a sexy woman!

I've wanted to be a woman all my life, but only now have taken the plunge. (I expect pretty lingerie and a dress in the mail any day, and already have my breast prosthesis.)

I want to send a special greeting to June, of N.Y., whose picture appears on page 25 of *LadyLike* #25.

I also loved the photo layout of Pamela Rogers (*Then & Now* #25). She's every bit as beautiful as a sophisticated woman in 1995 as in her picture as a demure young lady in 1970. I can only envy her early recognition that she was a woman.

Although I am just starting this route I am totally into self-feminization. I can't tell you, how much it means to me to have a magazine such as *LadyLike* for "men" who know they are really women.

Love, Laura, D.C.

continued on page 16

Letters Wife Helps Some

Dear JoAnn,

Thank you for publishing such a wonderful magazine. I look forward to it coming in the mail.



I've been out of the closet for about 2 years. My wife helped a lot, although, at times it is hard for her. We know it is an up and down situation. After all, she spent 16 years with a man that gave all the signs of [being] a normal man. I believe she realizes I am normal, [with] just an added feature. I hope it has added to her life and not taken away from it. We have been married 18 years. We are not young. When we met each of us had been married and divorced. As of today, I have a 34 year old son, 39 year old daughter and a 10 year old grandson and a year old granddaughter. My wife has a son age 41 with 2 sons and a 39 year old son with a daughter and son. Of course, they do not know about my CDing.

When time permits, I travel to Spokane, Wash., (365 miles) and meet others. Their club is called Pappillion. It is quite a mix of individuals. I have met threeFtMs, three MtFs, one shemale, and I believe four of us are heterosexual crossdressers. Oh yes, I

met four wives of other CDs and a few lesbians who are associated with others in the group. It is nice to have such a diversified friendship.

I could go on, but it's time to head for the sack and get some shuteye. Actually I meant only to say—keep up the great job.

Love, Janelle C, Montana

Mag Is First Rate With Her

Dear Angela,

I am enclosing four recent pictures of me which you may use. My first picture appeared on page 19 in #27.

The magazine is first rate and without exception presented with impeccable taste. CDS products, which I have ordered, are in the same category.

An unsolicited suggestion would be



more photos of your readers and perhaps less of *The Problem*, which I find to be a complete non-sequitor. But, then, that's just my opinion.

Best wishes and kindest regards,
Elaine, Ind.

Would Like Personals Back

Dear Angela,

After receiving my second issue of *LadyLike* I just had to drop you a note and say how much I enjoy your magazine. Being a senior citizen CD it was especially nice to see the *Now & Then* photo shoot of Nancy Ann Burdick. I

wish I looked as good as she—oh well, keep trying. When we get older we are not as pretty as we once were, but the feelings don't change and that understanding is reflected in your style.

The profiles, articles, photos are all in good taste and uplifting. The only suggestion I have is adding a personal ads section would be nice. Looking forward to my next issue. Hi to all the girls who work hard to put it together.

Love, June, Va.

(See the new photo policy on page 14 under *Send Your Photos*.)

Honored To Be Included

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

Yesterday, I bought *LadyLike* #27 and was surprised and honored to find two of my photos. It's really nice to be included with so many lovely ladies.

I still have a long way to go and it's nice to have *LadyLike* as a companion. It's taken me a long time to admit, at least to myself, that it's all right to want to be as feminine as possible.

I'd like to thank Angela Gardner for a sensitive and helpful editorial. I can see a lot of myself in that editorial. I also appreciate the letter from Brenda Altman regarding her thoughts on "measuring up." I always find the *LadyLike Profile* sections interesting, and the account of Diane Van Horne is fascinating and informative. I too was a big fan of the television shows *Soap* and *Bosom Buddies* for the same reasons as Diane.

Again, thank you for including my photos in issue #27. *LadyLike* is a fine magazine about wonderful human beings expressing their femininity. Thanks for letting me be part of it.

Love,
Beverly

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Photo Model - Britt

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The HERO Parade

Doin' Drag Down Under

Photos by Miki



HERO is Auckland, New Zealand's gay community annual dance party and festival. It is a fundraiser and promoter of safe sex. HERO is organised by the HERO Project.



The first HERO party took place in January 1991 and has occurred annually since then. It now includes a HERO magazine, a three week HERO festival, the HERO parade and the HERO dance party.



The 1997 HERO festival will be held for three weeks starting February 1 and will culminate with the HERO Parade and HERO Party on February 22, 1997.



HERO



More information can be obtained directly from the
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We're interested in
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 contact us for closing
 dates on future issues.





TOP ROW: Left- SKINTWO Mistress Dress \$280 (model Carrie); Center - Sinsation Satin Mistress Dress \$150 (model Anja); DeMask Nun's Habit \$415, gloves \$45 (models Anja & Evita).

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Models Anja, Carrie and Evita are on staff at New York's most opulent house of fantasy ARENA/BLAZE. All photos except lower right are by LEDA. Improper Attire is owned and operated by Mistress Barbara (lower right). She is 6' 5" tall and the items she is wearing are far from the largest we carry.

BOTTOM ROW: Left- Northbound Leather Halter Dress \$234, Winged Gauntlets \$101 (model Carrie); Center - Sinsational Satin Maid's Uniform \$135; Right - Northbound Leather Corset \$216, Stormy Leather Bra \$46 (model Mistress Barbara)



Then & Now

LadyLike

Michelle Richards, 1976



Michelle Richards, 1996



Diana, 1960



Diana 1995



Toni 1947



Toni 1992



Kaye's Korner

Relationship Issues with Linda & Vanessa Kaye



Dear V&L,

I've learned to accept and understand my husband's need to crossdress and I try to be supportive. Now "she" wants me to go to dinner with "her." I am reluctant to do so because I am afraid someone will recognize me. This makes "her" think that I am embarrassed about "her" crossdressing and "she" feels hurt. What do I do?

Caring But Cautious

Dear Caring,

Your fears are very common. In fact, next to bedroom issues, this is perhaps one of the most common questions we hear. First, let's look at your partner and what she feels. You have been accepting and supportive in her development and now, suddenly, she senses that you don't want to help her cross this major hurdle. All crossdressers fantasize, at one time or another, about going out into public *en femme*. And, most wish they could be mistaken for a genetic woman. As time goes by, they realize that this is not very likely to happen. With this realization, they learn to enjoy just being themselves without a burning desire to "pass." Your reluctance to appear in public with her may make her feel that you find her unattractive or that you are embarrassed by her appearance or behavior. We understand your fears of being recognized and offer some suggestions.

Communication is, of course, the key here. You need to clearly tell her that you find her femme self attractive. If this is not the case, then you should work together to develop an appearance and behavior that are acceptable in public. After this step, carefully and clearly explain that you doubt very much that anyone would recognize her. It is only that someone could recognize you, and then make

the connection.

We assume that more than fearing you might be recognized, is the fear that your partner might be the subject of ridicule. If this is so, say it. Now, what can you do?

Compromise. If you live within driving distance of another larger city, go there. If you do not yet belong to a support group, find one and join. Most support groups offer not only good practice in getting ready to "go out," but they often have a listing of accepting and safe locations.

Another suggestion depends upon your finances. If you can afford to do so, we suggest that you attend one of the many transgender conventions that are held throughout the country. These all offer many opportunities to be "seen" in public and some very fine seminars for both you and your crossdressing partner.

One last suggestion would be to get to know other transgendered couples in your area. Arrange small get togethers, dinners or parties in homes. These suggestions should help to reduce, or eliminate, the fear of being recognized. In addition, "going out *en femme*" is best done in small steps. While your partner feels this strong desire to go out in public, it really is best to work up to it in steps: Support group meetings, small get togethers with other members, conferences and out of town adventures. It may be that you and your partner never venture out into your town while she is *en femme*, and that's okay. You both need to have some ground rules for safety. One last suggestion, have fun.



The Kayes have published a book *Life With Vanessa* dealing with issues in relationships. To order your copy send \$11.50 (US only) to M. Kull, 6957 NW Expressway, Suite 121, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

Do You Need Help? Are You Confused??

Finally! Answers to any questions you have about All areas of Crossdressing !!

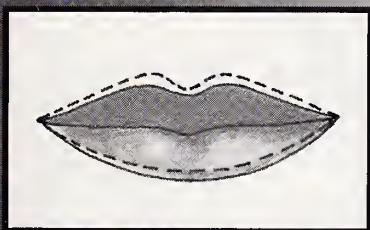
How do I cover my Beard Shadow ??
What are my correct make-up colors ?
How do I learn to apply all of this ??



What are the correct shades to use for my eye shape ?? How do I correct my eyebrows if I don't want to tweeze them ??



Being a person of large body type or being overweight has nothing to do with looking great and being passable (as seen in this photo)



What is the correct shape for my lips ??



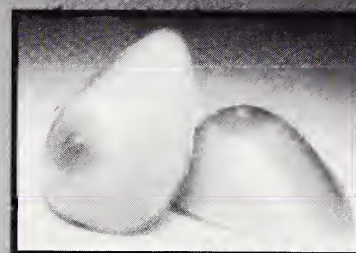
What wig color, style, and length is best for my face shape and body type ??



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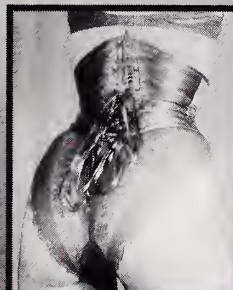
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Should I use a corset, Waist Slimmer, or a modified corset to create a feminine figure ??



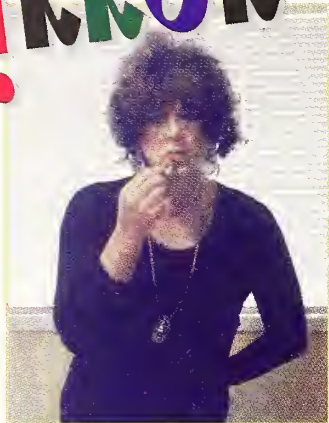
Should I wear high heels or low heels ? What is my correct shoe size ??



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Henri David's Hallowe'en 96



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PLAYERS MAKE NEW YORK HALLOWEEN



TV VIDEO REVIEWS

Crossdressing at the movies with Laurie Ann



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. The Crying Game; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; To Wong Foo..., and M. Butterfly are recent releases that have achieved some degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects – crossdressing.

Actor's Revenge

Most every "girl" has imagined being a professional female impersonator. The idea of singing, dancing, and wearing beautiful clothes, while an appreciative, enthusiastic audience shouts "Bravo" is a fantasy we've all enjoyed. Only a few lucky "girls" have had the talent and good fortune to live out this dream. And an even smaller number have been able to make a living at it. A "girlfriend" of mine who was talented and successful as a female impersonator would often lament the fact that the profession was generally considered a "lesser art" as compared to the other performing arts.

My friend's observations are fairly typical of a large percentage of aspiring, as well as established, impersonators. E. Carlton Winford in his 1954 classic work *Female Mimics*, a pioneering effort at writing a history of female impersonation, pointed out the frustration and lack of respect most performers experienced. Winford noted that even during the "Golden Age" of female impersonation (1900-1925), the art was basically obscure and performers often "branded and subject to unjust criticism." Winford goes on to say that this criticism occurs even though "there is nothing in the entertainment world that can approach it in uniqueness."

Despite the fact that female impersonation in the West



Kazuo Hasegawa as Yukinojo

has never obtained mainstream status, there is a country where it has achieved the highest possible awards and accolades – Kabuki theater in Japan.

Actor's Revenge, a.k.a. *Yukinojo's Revenge*, is the story of a well known impersonator and takes place in the later part of the Golden Age of Kabuki, a nearly 200 year period ending in the mid 1800s. It is the period when Kabuki became a national art form. To understand *Actor's Revenge* it is necessary to have some historical information about



Namiji, daughter of Lord Dobe

Kabuki and the actors who played female roles.

Kabuki has a continuous history going back to the early 1600s. It is truly a unique theater experience. There is nothing like it in the West. Greek drama and opera are the closest comparisons to Kabuki. Kabuki is considered the art of the people and it speaks to the struggles, loves, passions, and humor of everyday life. The word Kabuki means: (Ka)—music, (bu)—dance and (ki)—skill. The great Russian film director, Sergei Eisenstein, once commented after seeing a Kabuki performance, "It is the most remarkable phenomenon of theater art." Kabuki today is every bit as popular as it was in the past. It has great numbers of fans and patrons.

It has been said, "A woman who is not a woman and yet leaves no doubt of her not being a woman—that is where Kabuki begins." The female impersonator is thus the major focus of Kabuki. The actors who take female roles are known as "Onnagatas," literally meaning "woman type or woman's side."

In the past, Onnagatas were very conspicuous in public because of their feminine appearance, their mannerisms, walk and dress. In everyday life they wore makeup, dressed and lived as women. (In *Actor's Revenge* Yukinojo lives as a woman.) An Onnagata might have a wife, but in everyday life every effort was made to conceal this fact. Yoshizawa Ayame, who is a kind of patron saint for Onnagatas, emphasized the importance of not acting as a female but *being a female* in spirit and mind. Thus, Onnagatas behaved in a manner that concentrated on hiding the fact they were born male.

This commitment to totally being a woman is not true of Onnagatas today. They would say they are actors and playing a female on stage is simply their job. But there are some who enjoy "dressing" off stage. (That shouldn't sur-

prise any *LadyLike* readers.)

Actor's Revenge was based upon a popular novel written by Otokichi Mikami. It was made into a three part film in 1935. That film has been lost. The 1963 version was directed by Kon Ichikawa. The director of the 1935 film was a former Onnagata and the star of both films, Kazuo Hasegawa, was also a former Onnagata.

Kazuo Hasegawa was in his sixties when the 1963 film (his 300th) was made. Not only had he achieved success as an Onnagata when younger, but had become a matinee idol. Kazuo was especially popular with female fans. It has been said that his popularity with women was the result of his androgynous appearance. In *Actor's Revenge*, Ohatsu, a pretty female thief comments, "That Yukinojo, he's creepy. He's neither man nor woman." Despite her disparaging remarks, she later falls in love with Yukinojo.

Actor's Revenge is the story of Yukinojo, who is one of the most famous Onnagatas of the 1800s. This particular time was known as the Edo period. (Edo is now Tokyo.) Yukinojo has a secret past. As the film progresses we learn that Yukinojo's father, a wealthy merchant, was falsely charged with smuggling. The false charge was conceived by competitive merchants and supported by Lord Dobe, a corrupt magistrate.

Yukinojo's father's wealth was confiscated and he later committed suicide. His distraught mother also committed suicide. The young Yukinojo witnessed both parents suicides and swore to seek revenge. The corrupt Lord Dobe has become a very powerful and successful man. He controls many people and even the Shogun, a military ruler, is fearful of his power. But Lord Dobe has a beautiful young daughter, Namiji, and he is dedicated to her.

One day Lord Dobe, some of his cronies, and Namiji, attend a Kabuki performance. There she sees Yukinojo perform. She immediately falls in love. In fact, her love for Yukinojo is so intense that she soon becomes lovesick. Her concerned father invites Yukinojo to visit her in hopes of helping Namiji regain her health.

Dressed realistically as a traditional Japanese woman, Yukinojo visits Namiji. His original purpose in consenting to the visit was to gain access to Lord Dobe and implement his revenge. But, Yukinojo has fallen in love with the beautiful Namiji, too.

In the drama that follows, Yukinojo, dressed as a female, is fully accepted in the female role. He is even honored as a celebrity. Along the way, we find he is also a skilled swordsman and adept in the martial arts. He is the Japanese

continued page 34

equivalent of the Chevalier D'Eon. Through clever manipulation Yukinojo turns Lord Dobe and his cronies against one another and they end up destroying themselves. Unfortunately, the beautiful Namiji gets caught up in the tragedy of revenge and dies.

The ending has Yukinojo lamenting his fate and feeling he was born under a lonely, unlucky star. He has lost his true love and set in motion the death of three people. The final scene has Yukinojo in a field. The field remains the same size on the screen, but Yukinojo becomes smaller and smaller until he finally disappears.

Actor's Revenge is a classic Greek tragedy. Anger and revenge, no matter how well intentioned, often have unforeseen tragic consequences. Frequently, the hero is consumed and destroyed by his passion—as are those close to him. In the ending the narrator says, "Many searched for Japan's greatest female impersonator... but no one saw him again... Yukinojo was forgotten."

Actor's Revenge is a fascinating film that raises many philosophical and psychological questions that remain unanswered in 1997.

The film is beautifully presented and the acting is flawless. It has been transferred to film in letter box format. The

sub-titles are easy to read.

Although sixty plus years old at the time the film was made, Kazuo Hasegawa looked much younger. He played his androgynous qualities to good advantage and is a talented actor. Hasegawa also played the part of Yamitaro, the rogue thief who admires Yukinojo. In fact, Ohatsu (the female thief) eventually falls in love with Yamitaro and comments on how similar his profile is to Yukinojo's. It's an inside joke to call attention to the dual roles played by Hasegawa.

Actor's Revenge is available from Critic's Choice Video for \$79.95. That's a bit high. Check out a well stocked video rental store with a large foreign film selection. If you can't find it, you can rent it via mail from Video Vault. Call them at 800-VVAULT-66 for details.

My thanks to Shinobu in Tokyo, a beautiful Onnagata. She provided me with background information about this film, translated materials for me and gave me her thoughts on Onnagatas (past and present), Kabuki theater and cross-dressing in Japan.

Reader's comments are welcome. Tell me about any films you'd like to see reviewed. Write to me c/o LadyLike.



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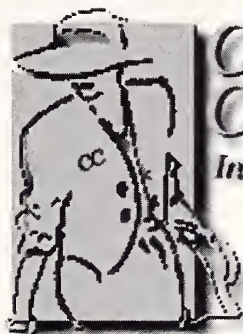
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National US Membership Organizations

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International Foundation for Gender Education, 123 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02154. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@world.std.com> <http://www.transgender.org/tg/ifge/>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$24 includes a 24-page monthly newsletter *Renaissance News & Views*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(1)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <http://www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com> <http://www.firstnethou.com/brenda>

Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, P.O. Box 670349, Chugiak, 99567

Arizona

Alpha Zeta#, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738. Phone: 602-488-0959; Email to kyle@goodnet.com

Evolvere: welcoming CD/ TS/ TG/ gay or straight or in-between. Phone: (520) 884-0541

Tau Upsilon#, 8802 E Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, 85710. Phone: (520) 296-3472.

California

Alpha Chapter#, PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, 90036.

American Transsexual Education Center: A.T.E.C., 1626 N. Wilcox Ave, #584, Hollywood CA 90028 Amanda Silvestri, Dir., Phone: (213) 389-6938.

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, 90048, Phone in L.A.: 213-467-8317; in Riverside: 909-360-5584. Or email to Shirley@earthlink.net

Androgyny East, Inland Empire area. Meets once a week. Call 909-737-5889 ask for Sara, or e-mail tomichelle@pe.net

Born Free, PO Box 1897, Corona, 91718.

CD SOCIAL GROUP, P O Box 224, Montrose CA 91021.

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, 90808.

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, 94527-2885. Phone: (510) 937-8432, <http://www.best.com/~nwl13/dvg/>

ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, 94142-6486, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/etvc/etvc1.htm>.

Gender Awareness League, c/o Grace Bredow, P O Box 46062, Los Angeles CA 90046.

Gender Expressions, P O Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816. Phone: (310) 869-4241

Ladies Knight Out, P O Box 19608-179, Irvine CA 92713, Heterosexual crossdressing couples' support group. Phone: (714) 262-9105.

Neutral Corner, P O Box 12581, San Diego CA 92112. Phone: (619) 685-3696, <http://users.aol.com/nutrlcmr/nutrlcmr.html>

Omega Chi# (Orange County, CA), P O Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

Pathfinders, SoCal SO Support group, <http://members.aol.com/ptfinders/pathfind.htm>.

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, 92686, <http://www.ren.org/rafil/ppoc.html>.

PSGV Transgendered Support, 401 South Main Street, Suite 104, Pomona CA 91765. Phone: (909) 620-8987.

Rainbow Gender Alliance, PO Box 700730, San Jose, 95170-0730, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/rga/rgapage.html>.

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, 95821. email to ava4sga@aol.com

San Francisco Gender Information, SFGI, P O Box 423602, San Francisco CA 94142-3602

San Joaquin Gender Assoc., 1141 Catalina Drive Box 163, Livermore CA 94550. Phone: (510) 447-9920.

Sigma Sigma Beta#, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, 96151.

Swan's Inner Sorority, P O Box 1423, San Jose CA 95109. Phone: (408) 297-1423

TGIF, meets in Santa Rosa. Call Diane at 707-544-1540 or email to: gad@crl.com

Transsexual Support Group, The Center Long Beach, 2017 East 4th Street, Long Beach, CA. 90814, email to NowImJenn@aol.com

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, P O Box 6541, San Jose CA 95150-6541.

Tri Chi#, P O Box 194, Tulare CA 93275. Phone: 209) 688-9246.

Colorado

Delta#, PO Box 16208, Denver, 80216. Phone: (303) 595-5TRI, or email to: mystie@aol.com.

Gender Identity Center, Inc., 1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993, email to: kathyw@fortnet.org, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/gic/index.html>

Phoenix Project 1740 South Buckley Road, #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

Teenage Kids of TSs, TAKOTS, c/o Laurie Ciccotello, 1740 S. Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, 06034. Phone (203) 657-4344, email to karacader@aol.com.

connecticutView (!), PO Box 2281, Devon, 06460. Email MasonD@aol.com.

Twenty (XX) Club Inc.(for TS only), PO Box 387, Hartford, 06141-0387, <http://www.intelleng.com/xx.html>.

Images, P O Box 666, Thompson CT 06241-0666. Phobe: (203) 779-9708 (voice and FAX)

Gender Identity Clinic of New England, GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester CT 06040. Clinton R. Jones, Director. Phone: 203-646-8651, <http://www.intelleng.com/gicne.html>

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Renaissance Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, 19808

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TADD, Transgenders Against Discrimination in the District, c/o HCC, 813 L. Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Phone: 202-543-6777.

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Animas, P O Box 420309, Miami 33242.

Eden Society, PO Box 1692, Pompano Beach, 33061-1692. Phone: (954) 316-8470.

Enchante', c/o J.L. Hores, 1801 69th Ave.South, St. Petersburg 33712. Phone: (813) 972-2617 (Kerry TS), (813) 866-0438 (Joe).

Enchante', Clearwater area. Call Jackie (813) 845-0284 or leave message.

Gamma Chi Beta#, Gulf Coast Belles, PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0045.

Pathways, PO Box 51462, Ft. Myers, 33905. Phone: 941-693-1136. Email to: PathwaysFL@aol.com

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Serenity, PO Box 307, Hollywood, 33022. Phone: (954) 436-9477.

Starburst, P O Box 1741 I, Clearwater 34622-0411, Phone: 813-523-8760, <http://users.aol.com/ashleyar/html/starbrst.html>.

TLC#Pantra, P O Box 3426, Tallahassee 32315-3426. Email to petrad@freenet.tl.fl.us.

Transgeneration, Address TBA, Gainesville. Phone: 352-6162, 10 AM -midnight, Sun & Sat, email to cdfjgvl@fdt.net.

Georgia

AGE(!), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, 30357, Ph: 770-435-4203, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/age/>.

Sigma Epsilon#, PO Box 272, Rosewell, 30077-0272, Ph: 770-552-4415, <http://pages.prodigy.com/kerried/sigep.htm>.

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, 96812. Phone: (808) 923-4270.

Idaho

Boise Bloomers, c/o Elizabeth P., 582 E. Boise Ave,

Box 153, Boise ID. 83706, Phone: (208)388-3864 or email to: Liz@rmci.net.

Iowa

owa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, 52406, or email to scottm@ins.infonet.net, <http://www.netins.net/showcase/chrisa/iowa.html>.

River City Gender Alliance, RCGA, P O Box 680, Council Bluffs IA 51502. Phone : 402-398-1255.

Illinois

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 182, Washington, 61517. Phone: (309) 444-9918.

Chi#, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, 60191-0040. Phone: (708) 262-8707, <http://users.aol.com/chitriess/triss/chimain.htm>

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, 60657, Phone: (708) 863-7714, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/cgs/cgsmain.html>.

The Sunday Society, P O Box 478850, Chicago IL 60647. Phone: (312) 486-3125 or (312) 252-7024.

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Kansas

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Louisville Gender Society, Box 5458, Louisville. 40255. Phone: (812) 944-5570 <http://www.ccs.uky.edu/~don/indextg.html>.

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance(!), PO Box 870213, New Orleans, 70187-1300. Phone: (504) 833-3046.

Maine

Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor ME 04402-1894.

Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., #345, So. Portland, 04330. Phone: (205) 775-0858.

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, 04101.

Maryland

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, P O Box 11737, Baltimore MD 21206-0337.

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, c/o Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore MD 21201. Phone: (410) 837-5445.

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, P O Box 3102, Deer Park MD 21550-1002. Phone: (301) 453-3538.

Washington - Baltimore Alliance c/o R. Lewis, Box

1994, Silver Spring Maryland, 20915. Email to HGarfin725@aol.com.

Massachusetts

ASSET (After Surgery Support Exchange for Transsexuals), PO Box 3121, Greenfield, 01302, or email to asset@crocker.com.

AXA, PO Box 380547, Cambridge MA 02238.

Berkshire Alternatives, PO Box 508, North Adams, 01247.

Gender Identity Support Services for Transsexuals, (G.I.S.S.T.) Phone: (617) 720-3413.

Getting Real, PO Box 194, West Newton, 02165.

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The Myriad Network, PO Box 288, Williamstown, 01267.

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Sunshine Club, c/o Roberta Steel, PO Box 149, Hadley, 01035-0149.

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 2283, Woburn, 01888-0483. Phone: (617) 891-9325

Transgendered Alliance, (TGA), PO Box 38-1005, Cambridge, 02238.

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Northwest Michigan Gender Society, c/o Tricia Marie Benton, PO Box 271, Petoskey, 49770.

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CLCC, PO Box 14844, Minneapolis, 55414-0844. Phone: (612) 229-3613.

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New Men & Women of Minnesota, PO Box 6432, Minneapolis, 55406-0432. Phone: (612) 220-1920.

Mississippi

Beta Chi#, PO Box 31253, Jackson, 39286-1253. Phone: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs).

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, 63117. Phone: (314) 367-4128. Email to stlglgf@aol.com, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/stlglgf/index.html>.

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, P. O. Box 3112, Omaha 68103-3112. Phone: 402-398-1255, or email to sgibbons@synergy.net.

Nevada

Silver Rose Gender Association. Contact, Lynda Cheney, P.O. Box 1334 Carson City, NV, 89702 or e-mail to lyndach@aol.com.

Theta Upsilon Gamma#, PO Box 91871, Henderson, 89009-1871. Email to sage@intermind.net, <http://www.intermind.net/theta/theta.html>.

Transsexual Support Group, c/o Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas.

New Hampshire

GT North, A support group with monthly meetings and a newsletter available. Contact 603-924-8828 or

email to Careycl@aol.com.

New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu#, PO Box 1, River Edge, 07661-0001. Phone: (201) 439-9618, or email to cdm@carroll.com.

JUMPSTART, PO Box 622, Paramus, 07653. Email to chatchka@haven.ios.com, <http://haven.ios.com/~chatchka/jumpstr.html>.

MOTG(!), PO Box 8243, Red Bank, 07701. Phone: (908) 219-9094, or email Vikkimmotg@aol.com.

Renaissance New Affiliate Startup (Titusville area) - contact Terri Risley at (609) 933-2233.

Sigma Nu Rho#, PO Box 9255, Trenton, 08650. Phone: 800-480-3152.

New Mexico

Phi (Fiestal)#, 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, 87109. Phone: (505) 299-2533.

New York

TV self-help group meets 2nd Monday of month from 6 - 8 PM in Lower Manhattan. Contact Lynda Frank at 212-765-3561.

Buffalo Belles#, NuPhiChi, PO Box 1701, Amherst, 14226. Phone: (716) 643-2626.

CD-Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, 14692. Phone: (716) 251-2132.

EON Inc., PO Box 3586, Syracuse, NY 13220-3586. Phone: (315) 431-9606.

Gender Identity Project, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th Street, New York, 10011. Phone: (212) 620-7310.

Imperial Queens & Kings of New York & Long Island, Suite 120, 70-A Greenwich Village Ave, New York, 10011. Phone: 212-580-9858 (NYC) 516-889-1980 (Long Island)

Lambda Chi Lambda#, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, 13326. Phone: (607) 547-4118, or email to StuComOne@aol.com.

L.I.F.E., PO Box 3015, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779. Phone: (516) 283-1333, or email to lt cvs@ix.netcom.com, <http://members.aol.com/Lifegroup>.

Metropolitan Gender Network(!), 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, 10014. Phone: (201) 794-1665 ext. 332, or (718) 461-9050.

New York GIRL & Partner(!), PO Box 456, Centereach, 11720. Phone: (516) 732-5115 (call after 10PM), or email to alt.cvs@ix.netcom.com.

Syracuse Transgender Society: Contact: Charliss Dolge (315) 422-6220, Charliss@dreamscape.com.

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, 12212-3604. Phone: (518) 436-4513

North Carolina

Kappa Beta#, c/o PO Box 12101, Charlotte, 28220-2101. Phone: (704) 565-5034, or email to dajones@InfoAve.net (Diane Jones).

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, 28814. Phone: (704) 259-9428.

Triad Gender Assoc., PO Box 2264, Jamestown 27282-2264. Phone: 910-454-1493, or email todula@nr.infi.net.

Ohio

Alpha Omega#, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, 44054-0053. Phone: (216) 556-0067.

Cross-Port, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati OH 45201-1692. Phone: (606) 581-3711, email to WGBN68SD@prodigy.com.

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Columbus, 43068. Phone: (614) 231-1368, or email to cc@stargate.com, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4398/>

Glass City Sisters, PO Box 8532, Toledo, 43623.

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, 44129. Email to paradisedi@aol.com.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, (COTA), PO Box 60354, Oklahoma City, 73146.

Sooner Diversity(!), PO Box 575, Norman, 73070

Oregon

Choices and Voices, 212 High St., Salem, Oregon 97303. Contact: (503) 373-4415, Allie or Gwen or email to pcb4reb@sprynet.com.

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Avenue, La Grande. Phone: 541-963-9718, or email tokeol@esc.osshe.edu, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1665>

Phoenix Rising Foundation, The Trans Group (for TS/TG/TV and questioning youth) & Transsexual Peer Support Group, 620 SW 5th Ave., Suite 710, Portland, Oregon 97204. Phone: (503) 223-8299.

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, 97208. Phone: (503) 646-2802.

Trans-Port, PO Box 66913, Portland, 97290. Phone: (503) 774-8463.

Capital City Chapter, PO Box 3312, Salem, OR 97302 (please include an SSAE).

Pennsylvania

Pony Express, 1903 W. 8th St., Erie PA 16505-5936

The Gender Group of Pittsburgh at the Persad Center, 5150 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Contact Cheryl at: 412-362-1638 Or E-Mail unicom@nb.net, <http://www.nb.net/~unicom/tgg.html>.

OASIS, PO Box 622, Meadville, 16335.

Phila. TS Support Group, PO Box 15839, Philadelphia PA 19103. Phone: (215) 567-7879.

Renaissance GPC, Greater Phila. Chapter, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, 19087. Phone: (610) 975-9119, or email to bensalem@cpn.com, <http://www.ren.org/>.

Renaissance LSV, Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, 17105. Phone: (717) 780-1578. Email to lsv@ezonline.com.

Renaissance LV, Lehigh Valley Chapter, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Call 610-821-2955 for directions or email to MonaLaura@AOL.com.

TransFamily, c/o Deni Scott, 962 Rockdale Road, Butler, PA 16001. Phone: 412-758-3578 (Janet), or email to dscott@pgh.net.

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, 15206. Phone: (412) 661-7030, or email to tsg@usaor.net.

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, 15230. Phone: (412) 231-1181.

Tennessee

Alpha Pi Omega#, PO Box 784, Brentwood, 37204-0784, <http://members.aol.com/apotris/aponash.htm>

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, 37209. Phone: 664-6883, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/tvals/index.html>.

Memphis TransGender Alliance, P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052

TV/TS Support Group, c/o Rev. John Prowett, 1517

Court Street, Suite #4, Memphis, 38104-2402.

Texas

Austin Second Image, PO Box 14965, Austin, 78761. Phone: (512) 515-5460 Wed. 7-9pm.

Boulton & Park Society, PO Box 17, Bulverde, 78163. Phone: (210) 980-7788

GCTC, PO Box 90335, Houston, 77090. Phone: (713) 780-GCTC, (713) 780-4282 voice.

HCDA (Helping CDs Anon.), 6804 E Hwy 6 S #334, 77083. Email to brenda@firstnethou.com.

Metroplex CD Club/Delta Omega#, PO Box 141924, Irving, 75014. Phone: (214) 264-7103, or email todomiss@flash.net, <http://www.flash.net/~domega>.

Nu Epsilon Tau#, PO Box 14096, Pantego, 76094. Phone: (214) 490-5738, <http://www.cyberhighway.net/~rpdig/net/>.

ReCast, PO Box 224001, Dallas, 75222-4001.

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (TATS), PO Box 142, Bellaire, 77401. Phone: (713) 827-5913 voice mail.

Tau Chi#, PO Box 1105, Alief, 77411. Email to TRISINFO@aol.com.

TS-Peer Support, c/o Alice Webb, MSW, Atrium Crest Bldg., 18333 Egret Bay Blvd., Ste560, Houston TX 77058. Phone: (713) 333-2278.

West Texas Gender Alliance c/o Tami Maloney, PO Box 6726, Abilene TX 79608.

Utah

Salt Lake Gender Consortium, PO Box 651073, Salt Lake City, 84165. Email to: watsonlaw@aol.com.

Reflection House, PO Box 628, Pleasant Grove, 84062. Phone/FAX: (801) 224-4737.

Virginia

Hampton Roads Transgender Outreach (HRT0), PO Box 61606, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-1606. Our contact phone is: (757) 627-4652.

Metro Area Gender Alliance MAGA, PO Box 16036, Arlington, 22215. Phone: (301) 949-3822.

TransGender Education Association (TGEA), P.O. Box 16036, Arlington, Virginia 22215. Phone: (301) 949-3822 or email to: TGEA@aol.com.

Virginia's Secret, P.O. Box 14716, Richmond 23220. Phone: 804-262-3906, or email to vasetret@juno.com.

Washington

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, 98103. Phone: (206) 284-1071, <http://members.aol.com/theemcty/index.htm>

Futurebuilders, c/o April Bresgal, N. 111 Cedar St., Spokane, WA 99201. Phone: 509-456-2517.

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, 98122-2843, <http://www.halcyon.com/ingersoll/home.html>.

West Virginia

The Valley Girls, PO Box 181, Dunbar, 25064-0181. Email to brwtvg1@aol.com.

Trans-WV, PO Box 2322, Huntington, 25724.

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, PO Box 44211, Milwaukee, 53214. Phone: (414) 297-9328 (voicemail).

Wyoming

Central WY Transgender Support Group, P.O. Box 1301, Evansville, WY 82636-1301

Canadian Support Groups

Canada

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Social Club, PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Illusions Social Club II, PO Box 33002, Edmonton, T5P 4V8.

British Columbia

Dream Girls, P.O. Box 535, Kamloops, V2C 5L7.

Combury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1. Phone: 604-415-2767.

Foundation for the Advancement of Trans-Gendered People's Society (FATE) 1-1727 William Street, Vancouver, V5L 2R5. Phone: +1 (604) 254-9591.

Transsexual Support Group, 14905 32nd Avenue, White Rock, V4P 1A4. Phone: +1 (604) 536-2053.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Manitoba

Prairie Rose Gender Club, PO Box 23 Gp 4 RR1, Dugald, R0E 0K0. Phone: +1 (204) 257-2759.

Ontario

Canadian Cross Dressers Club, c/o Wildside, 161 Gerrard St. E, Toronto M5A 2E4. Phone: +1 (416) 921-6112, or email to <info@wildside.org>.

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715, Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3. <genmet@adan.kingston.net>.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945.

Transition Support, c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, M4Y 2C9.

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2. Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

Etre Femme, Quebec Transsexual Association Inc., 84 Boul. des Allies,

Quebec GIL 1Y2. Phone: +1 (418) 529-1152.

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 475 Blvd Gouin Ouest, Montreal, H3L 1K4.

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February '97

22 - 23, True Spirit Conference, for FtM gender-variant people at the Best Western Hotel in Laurel, Maryland (near Washington DC). The American Boyz, POBox 1118, Elkton, MD, 21922-1118, or email to transman@netgis.com.

March '97

11-16, Texas "T" Party, in Dallas, Texas. Info, P.O. Box 17 Bulverde, TX 78163. Phone or Fax (210) 980-7788 or email to TXTP@aol.com.

14-15, NO LIMITS: Transgenderism—Negotiating Gender Boundaries, c/o Women's Studies Program, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, 337 Andrews Hall Lincoln, NE 68588-0303. PHONE: 402-472-9392

22-11th Annual Night Of A Thousand Gowns, sponsored by the Imperial Court of New York. For tickets call 212-724-0973.

April '97

10 - 12, "Perspectives on Progress", The 3rd Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. Contact Holly Nichols at HNIC7063@uriacc.uri.edu for information. Phone inquiries can be made by leaving a message at (401) 874-5150.

15 - 20, California Unity, a joint conference between IFGE and California Dreamin, in Long Beach, Calif.,

held aboard the fabulous Queen Mary. Call IFGE for more info at 617-899-2212 or email to ifge@world.std.com.

May '97

21 - 25, Esprit '97, Port Angeles, Washington state. A jointly sponsored event held by NorthWest Gender Alliance, The Cornbury Society, and Emerald City. For info email to <annamh@pipeline.com> Anna Marie Haas the coordinator for 1997.

29 - June 1, Spring Fling, Tiffany Club of New England, Crown Plaza, 2 Forbes Rd, Woburn, MA 01888. Call 617-891-9325.

June '97

4 - 8, Be All... Weekend, in Chicago, Ill. Chi-Chapter, PO Box 40, Wood Dale IL, 60191-0040. Phone 630-262-8707 (Evenings), or email to <chitriess@aol.com>.

19 - 22, 2nd International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex & Gender Issues, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Complete details from Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087, 610-975-9119 or at their web site <http://www.ren.org/congrs.html>.

22, Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc., Tenth Anniversary celebration in conjunction with the 2nd International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex & Gender Issues, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A special celebration banquet on Saturday night June 22, 1997

with guest speaker Kate Bornstein. Cost is \$37 per person. Contact Renaissance at address in previous listing.

July '97

16 - 20, Fifth Annual Spouses Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), Ontario Airport Hilton, 700 N Haven Ave, Ontario, Calif. 91764. Call the hotel directly for reservations, 800-654-1379. For information about SPICE, contact Peggy Rudd, PO Box 5304, Katy, Texas 77491-5304.

11 & 12, TRANSGEN '97, International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy, PO Drawer 35477, Houston, Texas 77235-5477, Phone: 713-777-8452, or email to: <ictlep@aol.com>.

August '97

3 - 10, Dignity Cruise VIII with Dr. Peggy Rudd and the gender gifted and their significant others sailing to Alaska on the LEGEND OF THE SEAS. For more information or reservations call Brenda at 1-800-247-7021.

9-11, 3rd Annual FtM International Conference, Boston, Mass. Contact FtM Int'l., 5337 College Ave #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call 617-683-1095.

September '97

4-7, Rites of Passage 7, Guerneville, Calif., contact Wendy Kaiser, 246 Lebanon Road North, Berwick, Maine 03906. Phone: 207-676-5870

10-13, 15th Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Symposium, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Contact HBGIDA, 3790 El Camino Real, #251, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Phone: (415) 322-2335 or FAX (415) 322-3260.

18-21, Paradise In The Poconos Fall 97 crossdresser's getaway weekend. Spouses and partners are very welcome to attend. CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, 610-640-9449, fax 61-648-0257 or email to poco@cdspub.com

October '97

2-5 Southern Comfort, Atlanta, Contact Southern Comfort Convention, P.O. Box 77591 Atlanta, GA 30357. Phone: (404) 633-6470 or email to scc95@aol.com.

9 - 12, 3rd Annual OutCharlotte Cultural Festival, Charlotte, NC. Contact OutCharlotte at 704-563-2699.

19-26, Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, Mass. (Cape Cod). Contact FanFair Registrar at PO Box 2734, Boston, MA 02208.

If you have information about an event that you'd like us to post here, please write to us at the CDS office or send email to us at:

<calendar@cdspub.com>

Ladies, Lets Do Lunch!

By Marsha Lakey

In a recent issue of *LadyLike* (#27), Tammi Knight gave some wonderful advice about getting “Out of the Closet... Into the Marketplace.” Boy, did she bring back memories! Let’s be honest, back in your catalog days didn’t you at least once project your face onto one of those tall, skinny, young and beautiful catalog models? OKay girls, how about this, raise your hand if sometime you haven’t had to hassle around with returning some catalog order that didn’t fit, looked dumpy, was a totally different shade than in the picture, etc.? Just as I thought, I don’t see many of you with your hands down!

Almost all of us went through this, and for those of us who can now really go shopping, it’s wonderful not to be on a first name basis with all the folks at the UPS office. But getting out is really much more than just avoiding the complications of catalog shopping. The reality is what girl doesn’t love to go shopping? Let’s face it, we live in a glorious age—the Age of the Mall, the Age of the Boutique, the Age of the Makeover, the Age of Lingerie, and other pretty things! It’s a shopper’s paradise out there! And as those of us who do get out know, almost no one blinks twice when we come in to shop. As long as we act and look as a proper lady, we are welcome about anywhere that our courage will take us.

But, once you are out there in “paradise,” don’t forget what Napoleon (or was it Josephine) said, “An army travels on its stomach.” So, when you go shopping don’t forget to do lunch too! Isn’t that what your wife or girl friend does? So, why, my dears, should we be any different? Plus, when your sitting in a restaurant with your pretty legs tucked under a table, you can finally give your cramped little pinkies a rest by sliding off those too tight, three inch heels.

If you’re one of the girls who has never done the restaurant scene, expect to experience the same paranoia you experienced the first time you walked into the lady’s department at your favorite department store. You remember, walking by the entrance a million times, and heading for the nearest exit when you thought someone might talk to you. When you finally get up the courage and commit to dinning en femme, I’ll bet you go late, sit in the corner, and mumble your order to your waitress. Hey, if that’s you, don’t feel bad. Very few of us displayed perfect composure our first time out. And why knock yourself, instead be proud you took another big step in realizing your feminine being.

Now, I’m no expert at all of this, and even thought I think I present a very acceptable public image, I try to use good sense whenever I eat out. For you girls who might be considering your first dinning experience here is my humble advice:

◆ Dress like the other ladies you will be dining with. Please, girls, don’t show up at TGI Friday at the lunch-rush hour dressed in a leopard print blouse, leather mini, and 5-inch spiked heels. Trust me, you’ll look a lot more natural in jeans, a silk shell, and a linen blazer.

◆ If you’re real nervous and the place you want to go is popular, go early or go late. Unless you’re totally self assured and your image is the picture of femininity, you’ll absolutely panic if the hostess says you’ll have to wait in the lobby or the bar until your table is ready. Better yet, until you get your anxiety under control try picking places or nights when you know there won’t be a big crowd.

◆ Because some people and some places get touchy about restrooms, watch your liquid intake. If you just can’t hold it, ask your waitress if a trip to the ladies room would be a problem.

◆ Speaking of waitresses, I have found them to be very sweet and totally accepting. Please, **please, please** talk to them, and never, **never, never** be chintzy with the tip.

◆ When it comes to actually eating, please remember—you are a lady, not one of the boys at the chow line! Make an appropriately feminine selection from the menu, keep your elbows off the table, and don’t ever use a toothpick!

Once you’ve crossed that magic “dining out” line, each experience will be easier and easier. With time you might become a “regular” in a few of your favorite places, and if you followed my advice and treated the waitresses well, they will look forward to those nights that “the lady comes in to eat!”

Like all phases of life, as your experience grows, you’ll begin to look for ways to add spice and variety to your gourmet outings. Wineries, old country inns, posh downtown establishments... the truth is, if a girl thinks about it, the possibilities are endless. Of course, the more variety you put into your dinning experiences, the more variety you’ll need in your wardrobe. The jeans and blazer outfit for TGI Fridays just won’t do for a downtown penthouse restaurant with a panoramic view of the cityscape. We all have different tastes, but I would be wearing a simple, but elegant, black cocktail dress for such an occasion.

Along with the question of what to wear will come the question, with whom shall I dine? I love a “girls night out,” and nothing can beat a mid-afternoon cup of gourmet coffee after a shopping outing. But, if the truth be known, what this dame really loves is to go dining with a good looking guy. Face it, it’s what all the genetic girls are doing these days! And just in case you’re having a hard time with this idea, don’t think you have to be a gay sister to go out with a guy. Work out a deal with a friend to leave her dress in the closet and act as your escort. I guarantee, you’ll never feel more like a lady than when you are dressed to kill and sitting across from some good looking guy that all the other girls in the restaurant would die to be with!

So, with a whole world of fun just waiting for you, why are you still sitting there reading this wonderful magazine? Get your cute little fanny over to the phone and make reservations for a wonderful night out!



The Perfect Brow

A Tutorial by JoAnn Roberts, author of *Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing*. Illustrations by LeVaughn

Getting Started

The eyes and eyebrows are the most expressive features of your face. You can achieve a more feminine appearance simply by changing the shape of your eyebrows, either temporarily or permanently. Regardless of whether you decide on permanent or temporary changes in shape, you need to groom your brows.

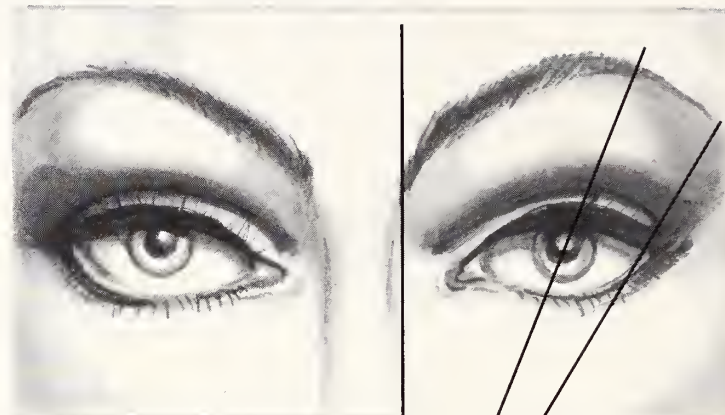
Start by tweezing stray hairs from underneath the brow (never from above). Follow the natural shape and pull in the direction the hair grows. If your brows are naturally thin, brush them straight down with a brush (a toothbrush works fine for this). Then fill in missing hairs



with two different eyebrow pencils, one the color of your brows and one darker. Then, brush brows back into place. Repeat if you need more coverage or to make them darker. The rule of thumb here is that your brows should be no more than two shades lighter than your hair color, UNLESS you are a blonde — then they can be no more up to two shades darker.

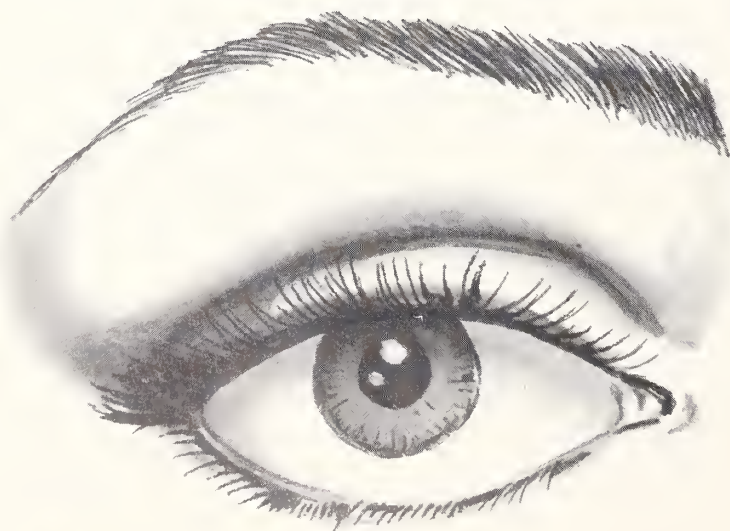
Shaping The Brow

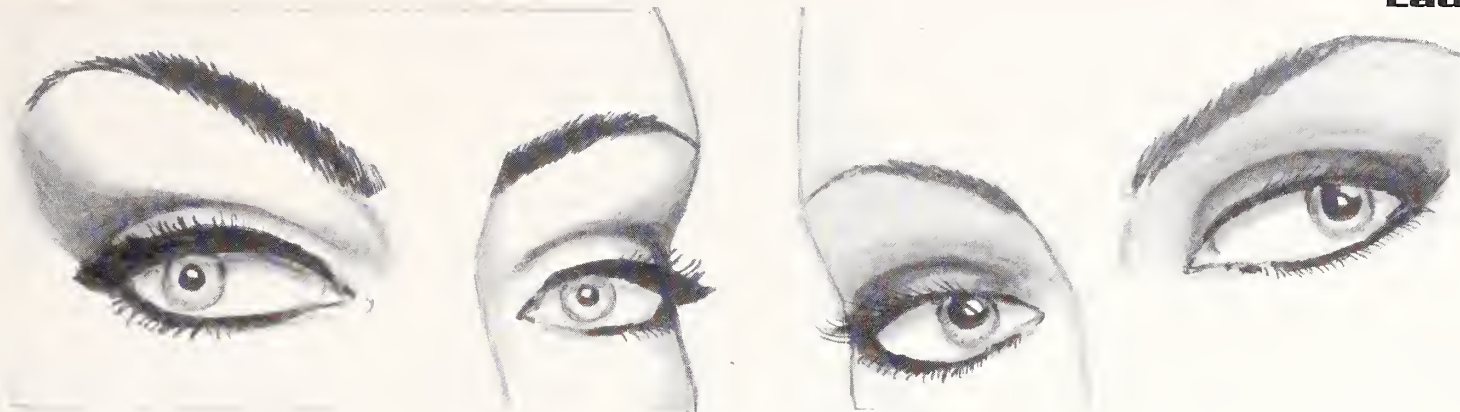
There is a simple way to determine the correct shape of the brow. Lay an eyebrow pencil alongside your nose



Finding the right shape for your eyebrows

and let it pass over the inner corner of your eye. That's where your brow should start. Rotate the pencil so that it lays from the base of your nose and across your pupil. Where it crosses your brow is where the arch should be. (Try to keep the arch as far to the outside of your face as looks natural.) Then rotate the pencil again so the pencil lays across the outer edge of your eye. Where it crosses the brow is where your brow should end. If it doesn't, add length with a brow pencil. If it's longer, pluck to shorten. The shape of your face also determines how your brow ends. With a round face, aim the brow at the upper edge of your ear. For a square or longish face, point the brow at mid-ear. And for an Oval face, point the brow toward the ear lobe.





If you are not willing to make permanent changes to your brows, here is how to do it temporarily. Get some plastic surgical tape at the drugstore. I use Johnson & Johnson brand. Now, clean your forehead with alcohol to remove any oil. Locate the point above your brow where you want the arch. Experiment using your finger to lift the brow. Tear off a strip of tape no more than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide and perhaps two or three inches long. Press one end of the tape onto your forehead just above the brow by perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Pull up on the tape and smooth into your hairline. If you have too much hair, you'll need to wear a wig cap so the tape has something to stick to. By adjusting the location of the tape, you change the shape of your brow and the entire expression of your face.

Shadow Placement

Once your brows are shaped properly, they will act as guides for shadow placement. The face is made up of diagonals all stemming from the eyebrows, according to master makeup artist Rex. He says to keep all shadow and liner within those boundaries. Highlighter goes directly beneath brow, following its shape. Shadow stays in middle sections and liner should not extend past the bottom edge of the lower eyelid.

Daytime eyes are simple and straightforward. Mascara on upper lashes, a brown-based shadow on lids and natural brows. No liner! Keep it neutral. For night-eyes, add darker shadow at the outer corners and a black or smoky dark liner.

*Lisa (r.) & Kathryn,
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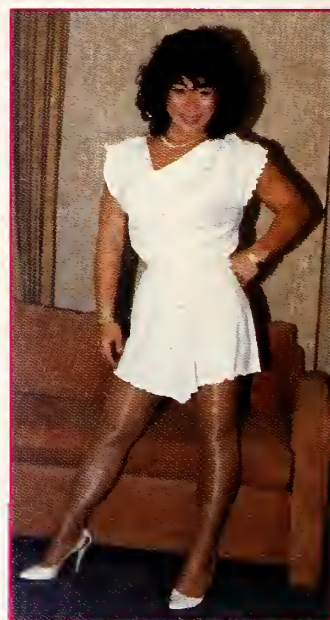
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Send photos to CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263. Photos cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient return postage.



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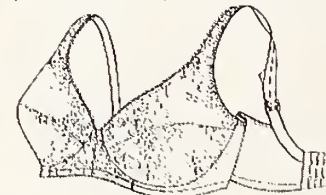
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On My Mind...



Girl, am I upset, or what! I spent the better part of 18 months helping to build an organization to work for transgender rights and they go and do something so stupid I can't stay involved.

In an effort to mediate an issue of control between the board of GenderPAC

(GPAC) and the GPAC Executive Director, the acting president of GPAC created an Executive Committee to take over the management of GPAC until the second face-to-face board meeting.

There were major problems with this approach. The Executive Committee was not created legally or properly, and the acting board had not scheduled a second face-to-face board meeting.

I wrote the Articles of Association for GPAC, and I was serving on the GPAC board as an ex-officio policy advisor, so I informed the board their Executive Committee was not created properly and, in my opinion, kept information away from other board members. I was told by one of the new Executive Committee members that the GPAC "board was not working" and that this committee was the most expedient way to keep GPAC moving along. Now, I have a real problem with that "expedient" approach. GPAC is supposed to be working for the protection of transgender rights, i.e., creating rules for society to follow when dealing with transgendered people. How can we expect society to follow those rules if some GPAC members don't follow their own rules? These people signed the GPAC Articles of Association and agreed to follow the rules therein, yet, within one month's time, they violated the rules and in the process trashed the rights of half the GPAC board.

Since I could not convince the GPAC Executive Committee to disband, it was obvious my opinion as a policy advisor was useless, so I resigned. It is ludicrous and hypocritical to call yourself a "rights" organization if you clearly do not respect other people's rights. Subsequently, both the International Law Conference (ICTLEP)

and Renaissance have publically declared they cannot support GPAC in its present form.

I also feel that GPAC has lost its focus. What started as an organization to work for *transgender* rights, became an organization to work for *gender* rights, which metamorphosed to *gender, affectional, and racial equality*, and now they'd like to add gays, lesbians, S&M leather people, bisexuals, and anyone else they can bring under the tent. Excuse me, but those folks already have organizations working for them. We need an organization dedicated to working *just* transgender rights and not muddying up the agenda with other issues.

Another area GPAC has gone off track, again in my opinion, is on the issue of Gender Identity Dysphoria (GID) and it's use as a "weapon" against gender-questioning youth. GPAC is working to get GID removed from the *Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV)*, in the mistaken notion that this will stop misguided/abusive therapists from using it against the kids. If GPAC succeeds in this Quixotic quest, the economic and political damage to people with GID will be irreparable and those therapists will find another diagnosis to use against the kids. Working against GID is not widely supported in the transgender community and seems to be a waste of GPAC's time.

It's a shame, really, and I am very upset because of all the work, time, and monetary support I personally put into GPAC, not to mention the work of others. But it was misplaced. I made a mistake. GPAC isn't the community organization I thought it would be. Like most other political organizations, it's about power and control. GPAC isn't interested in listening to diverse or divergent voices.

I can't and won't support GPAC the way it is presently operating—open loop with no input from the community. And I don't recommend anyone else support it either, until and unless they get it under control.

Hopefully that process will begin this month at the True Spirit Conference outside of Washington, D.C., where some of the GPAC board members will meet to consider a new set of Articles of Association.

Once burned, twice careful. I'll watch from the sidelines to see what Phoenix rises from the ashes.

JoAnn Roberts

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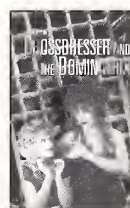
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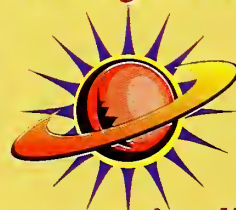
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